

Project Factsheet for: Upper Mississippi River Restoration - Environmental Management Program, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin

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Project Location Information

Location: The program includes the Upper Mississippi River between the Twin Cities, Minnesota and the mouth of the Ohio River, the Illinois Waterway, and small portions of tributaries that have commercial navigation channels.

River Basin(s): Illinois, Mississippi

State(s): IA, IL, MN, MO, WI

Congressional District(s): IA-1, IA-2, IA-5, IL-11, IL-13, IL-14, IL-15, IL-16, IL-17, IL-18, IL-19, IL-2, IL-3, MN-1, MN-7, MO-6, MO-9, WI-1, WI-2, WI-3, WI-5, WI-6

Status

Informational only.

Description

The UMRS-EMP consists of two primary components: (1) Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREP) and (2) Long-Term Resource Monitoring Program (LTRMP). WRDA 99 re-authorized program funding continually with reports being submitted to Congress every sixth year to document evaluation of program, accomplishments, habitat needs, and recommended adjustments.

Additional information on the UMRS-EMP can be found at the following website: <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/EMP/default.htm>.

The UMRS-EMP, authorized by the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 and extended indefinitely by the WRDA of 1999, has come to be recognized as the single most important effort committed to ensuring the viability and vitality of the Upper Mississippi River System's (UMRS) diverse and significant fish and wildlife resources since establishment of the National Wildlife Refuges on that system. This systemic program provides a well-balanced combination of monitoring, research, and habitat restoration activities. Program accomplishments to date include: (1) the completion of 48 habitat restoration projects benefiting approximately 83,000 acres of riverine and floodplain habitats; 25 more projects in various stages of construction and design will benefit another 45,000 acres of habitat when implemented; (2) the collection of millions of data samples (primarily fish, water quality, vegetation, and invertebrates) critical to carrying out the applied research that is leading to enhanced understanding of the dynamics of large floodplain rivers and successful multi-purpose resource management; (3) the development of extensive digital data bases, mapping products, and establishment of an information clearinghouse through which UMRS data and information can be universally accessed; and (4) a partnership of unparalleled dimensions between a multitude of Federal and State agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the general public.

A partnership-based Report to Congress on this program was completed in December 2004. This report documented the program accomplishments to date and recommended that the Long Term Resource Monitoring Program (LTRMP) and Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREP) components of the current program be continued to serve the ecosystem restoration and resource monitoring needs on the Upper Mississippi River System. The Report to Congress concluded that the EMP authority should be amended to specifically allow nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to serve as non-Federal sponsors of HREPs. Such a provision is consistent with other Corps of Engineers' ecosystem restoration authorities, would help leverage scarce resources, and would offer a potentially more efficient approach to accomplishing projects that involve land acquisition. The Report for Congress also concluded that Funding for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of HREPs should be coordinated in annual Federal budgets to ensure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the resources needed to operate and maintain the growing inventory of HREPs on the refuge lands it manages. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a key partner in the EMP program as a whole and must be able to meet its HREP obligations on refuges.

Summarized Financial Data

Authorized Federal Cost Per Year (HREP)	\$22,750,000
Authorized Federal Cost Per Year (LTRMP)	\$10,420,000
Authorized Federal Cost Per Year (Technical Review Committee) thru FY09	\$350,000

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

FY 2007: The FY07 funds will be used for the construction, planning, and/or design of 25 projects and the collection of analysis data that determines the dynamics and trends for the Upper Mississippi River. Funding is also being used to continue a Public Involvement program.

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

FY 2008: The budget amount would allow significant progress to be made in both the HREP and LTRMP. The FY08 funds will be used for the construction, planning, and/or design of 23 projects, applied research, long term resource monitoring at six field stations, continuation of a Public Involvement program, and working on development of the Independent Technical Review Committee.

Authority

CG - Construction General -- , Section 1103 of WRDA 1986, as amended.

Additional Information

The Upper Mississippi River Restoration will continue to serve as a national model for riverine ecosystem evaluation and enhancement. The past and future success of this program can be attributed to the active involvement and strong support from the US Congress, state and federal resource agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. If full funding is received the Program will be expanded to include efforts to develop a 10-year aquatic ecosystem restoration plan.

Re-authorization was supported by all five state governors; Federal, state, and local agencies; and many non-governmental organizations.

Additional Congressional Districts: MN-8, MN-3, MN-4, MN-5, MN-2, MN-6; IL-12; MO-1, MO-2, MO-3, MO-8.

Program was formerly known as the Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program (UMRS-EMP).

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